

THE

# HISTORIAN

On the web - [www2.datasync.com/history](http://www2.datasync.com/history)

OF HANCOCK COUNTY

Bay Saint Louis, Mississippi

AUGUST 2005

## AUGUST HAPPENINGS

The monthly luncheon meeting will be held on Thursday, August 18th, at the Kate Lobrano House at 108 Cue Street, 12:00 noon. The speaker for this month will be Ms Gwen Impson from The Arts association of Bay St. Louis. Please call 467-4090 for reservations since the seating will be limited.

\*\*\*\*\*

Two books written by Mr. Edwin Rodger Ling, Sr., were donated to the society by his wife. They are *The History of The First Presbyterian Church of Bay St. Louis*, and *One Family, Many Animals*.

\*\*\*\*\*

Check out page six, the Gulf Coast Transportation ad, for some fun trips.

\*\*\*\*\*

Plans for the annual cemetery tour are in progress. If you would like to help as guide, actor, or hostess, please call us. We need empty liter Coke bottles, washed and de-labeled. In addition, donations of cookies, candy, and treats of any kind will be greatly appreciated. Please call and let us know if we can count on you!



Kiln High School 1917 Ms. Doby (Williams') Class

## THE RINGING OF SCHOOL BELLS

Edited by Eddie Coleman

In 1976 Jean Doby Williams, a retired teacher of the Hancock County School System, handwrote an account detailing her experiences of teaching in the county schools from 1912 until her retirement in 1958. The following article is excerpted from her narrative.

"In the fall of 1912, I began teaching in the public school

of my hometown, Pearlinton. I was principal and teacher. My pupils numbered thirty-two from primer through eighth grade. I had had two years of helping my mother in her private school in Pearlinton. Then [I] attended the Tri-County Normal School in Wiggins, Mississippi, for nine or ten weeks, then took [the] teachers' examination in the Bay St. Louis Court House, and got [a] license to teach. [Because of] the Poitevent and Favre mill preparing to close, people commenced moving from Pearlinton. Before this, Pearlinton



THE

**HISTORIAN**

OF HANCOCK COUNTY

Editor - Dale St. Amant  
 Publisher - Mike Cuevas  
 Published monthly by the

**HANCOCK COUNTY  
 HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

2005 BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
 Roland Schexnayder, President  
 Charles Gray, Exec. Dir.  
 Melinda Richard  
 Ruth Thompson  
 Sheila Cork  
 Ruth Carlson  
 Mike Cuevas  
 Ellis Cuevas  
 Jerry Zimmerman  
 Kathryn Boh-Morgan

108 Cue Street or P.O. Box 312  
 Bay Saint Louis, Mississippi 39520  
 Telephone/Fax [228] 467-4090  
 On Line [www2.datasync.com](http://www2.datasync.com)

Email: [history@datasync.com](mailto:history@datasync.com)

**LOBRANO HOUSE  
 HOURS**

MONDAY — FRIDAY  
 10:00AM — 3:00PM

**MISSION STATEMENT**

To preserve the general and architectural history of Hancock County and to preserve the Kate Lobrano House and collections therein; to research and interpret life in Hancock County; and to encourage an appreciation of and interest in historical preservation.

**TREES & BRICKS**

Call Kim King (228)-469-0678 to register your live oak. She is doing a fantastic job. Soon we will have plaques on every old oak in Hancock County.

Remember the memorial bricks? We have several left, so if you would like to purchase one call Dale or Eddie at the Historical Society.

Public School had had two teachers; now, with a decreasing population only one would be needed. I applied and received the appointment.

"When cool weather came, we used pot-bellied stoves that burned wood. We had no janitor; the trustees saw that wood was put in the schoolyard. The larger boys kept the wood boxes indoors filled with wood. The older girls were assigned days to sweep and dust. I lit the fires and saw they were out before we left. I also helped with sweeping and cleaning. We had no play equipment [except] marbles, balls, bats, etc., that the pupils brought. In groups we would play 'Drop the Handkerchief' and singing games. There were no free books. Our books were bought or handed down...or given by someone that could use them no longer.

"Lunchrooms were unknown. Most of the children [lived within] walking distance from the school and went home for their mid-day lunch. If it was a rainy day, they did as I did every day—brought their lunch. I enjoyed the sessions. However, so many families were moving or just waiting for Poitevent and Favre to get their sawmill in Mandeville built that I was in doubt about accepting the school for the next session.

"My mother closed her private school in Pearlinton and accepted a position in Logtown Public School. My younger brother attended Logtown School and used to drive my mother back and forth in a horse drawn buggy. A short distance nearer, [in] Gainesville, a one-teacher public school needed a teacher. I accepted the position and rode with

my brother and mother. The school was the 'Bennett Specie'. It was a small one-room building, not [nearly] as nice as Pearlinton School. I only had twenty pupils, all grades. The heater, janitor service, [and] play equipment [were] the same as in Pearlinton, only this heater's pipe often smoked and fell down a few times.

"After this session my family moved to Mandeville. I did not go with them. I spent the summer in Hattiesburg at Mississippi Normal College, now U.S. M. I visited my family when I left Hattiesburg, and on the second day I was in Mandeville, I received a telegram from Mr. John Craft, then county superintendent of Hancock, telling me there was a position as primary teacher open for me in Bayou Talla Public School, near Kiln, Miss., and if I accepted I would assist in getting a good place for me to board, and he did. Although Bayou Talla School was about one mile from Kiln, the patrons and pupils did not seem to mind the distance. Many lived at Bayou Talla; so did I. I boarded a short distance from the school.

"The school was two-story and had three large rooms. The principal, a man, taught sixth, seventh, and eighth grades upstairs. The intermediate teacher and I each had a room downstairs. She taught the fourth, fifth, and part of the third grade. I had the beginners through third grade. We had no heater problems; they were in good condition. The desks were comfortable, and we had tables and chairs for reading purposes. Our play equipment was not very plentiful, but the larger boys and girls had spacious grounds to play outdoor games. The little folks spent recess periods on the



school's front porch or playing under shade trees. The book situation was poor. It was either buy new books or use 'hand-me-downs' other members of the family had used. We had to bring our lunch, teachers as well as pupils. My classes sat at tables to eat, and I sat with them. I would spread a tablecloth made from colorful feed sacks on our reading tables.

"[The next September] I...had the same room, same position, but a larger salary. Before long rumors were in circulation about the passage of the Consolidated School Law of 1914. Many wide-awake citizens of Kiln and vicinity listened and envisioned what an excellent location Kiln would be for a large, well-equipped school. Finally, in 1916 a petition was circulated at Kiln, Fenton, and elsewhere for a consolidated school district, which was endorsed by over [125] taxpayers and electors of the district. The petitions were presented to the school board in due time, [and] they were acted upon favorably, the result being a magnificent two-story building known as Kiln Consolidated School. It was formed by the following named schools: Necaise, McLeod, Fenton, Silver Hill, and Bayou Talla, comprising a district of fifty-two square miles. The building, together with the equipment, cost ten thousand dollars.

"[During] the first session large covered vans drawn by horses were used to transport pupils that lived far from the school. Later motor trucks were used; [they] were faster and cheaper in the long run. All the classrooms were spacious; so was the auditorium; each [was] well equipped. Mr. Vernon Asendale was the first principal, and the first graduates in the new school [for the] 1916-17 session were Etha Kergosien and Edgar J. Doby, my

youngest brother.

"Our next principal was Prof. S. P. Powell. We were six classroom teachers, a domestic science teacher, and a music instructor. Mr. Powell coached the boys' ball games. One of the classroom teachers taught manual training to her boys that were in the sixth grade. Later when the older girls wanted a basketball team, Mr. Powell was their coach. Kiln pupils took active parts in ballgames [and] field meets in Hancock County [and] also in neighboring counties. Pupils who wished to do so took piano lessons.

"[In the] 1918-19 session 4-H Club work was introduced in the school under the guidance of Miss Sallie Cirlot, County Home Demonstration Agent and Mr. Frank Pittman as [county] agent. The school was carefully watched and cared for by the County Health Doctor, D. M. Shipp, and the nurses who assisted him. They lived in Bay St. Louis, but visited often.

"Every room had adjust-



**Aaron Academy at Santa Rosa, 1907**

able steel sanitary desks, charts, maps, blackboards, and other necessary school apparatus. We had electricity throughout the school even to ring the bell. We had a maintenance man and janitor, sanitary drinking fountains, and indoor restrooms. For recreation there were swings, slides, and ball equipment of all kinds.

"In 1918-19 the teachers prepared a little volume *Kiln Consolidated School* and dedicated it to the children of Hancock County. By this time the school's enrollment had reached [350]. The patrons were proud of their school; so were the teachers and pupils. The 1919 graduates were four in number: Jessie Cuevas, Mae Mauffray, Delia Beech, and Lottie Cuevas."

[The next edition of *The Historian* will contain further reminiscences of Mrs. Williams.]

**Cemetery Tour  
October 31st...  
Volunteer!**



## GERALD PRICE'S SCRAPBOOK ...

Edited by Dale St. Amant

One day about two weeks ago, Pat Murphy walked into the historical society bearing a gift, as he has so often done in the past. He had a box of old newspapers, clippings and pictures that once belonged to Mr. Gerald V. Price, who had been the sheriff of Hancock County from 1960-1964. The clippings were from the *Sea Coast Echo* ranging in date from 1943 through 1945.

Now there were a few clippings about him and his term in office, but most of them were clippings of the young men from Hancock County who were serving in the armed services.

He seemed to collect articles about St. Stanislaus and Bay High, especially ones about the football teams, May Festivals, and graduations.

He also clipped articles showing growth in Hancock County.

But the article that grabbed my attention was on the first page of a September 1943 issue of the *Echo*.

It was an article written in 1943 which told the story of a family man who drowned after an explosion on his fishing boat, the *Margaret Ursula*. That man was my grandfather. I had never seen the article before and it revealed many details of which I had not been aware.

I enjoyed reading those clippings so much that I thought I would share a few with you.

## Wind Storm Damages Property

When Bay St. Louis people looked out Monday morning on blue skies and bright sunshine it was hard to realize a storm had raged from midnight Saturday until past nine o'clock Sunday night.

The wind picked up a velocity of fifty miles an hour and the increasing high tide caused the beach residents to be alarmed. Though the railroad bridge across the Bay was almost entirely submerged by water, train traffic was not delayed to any great extent.

The major damage was to the piers many of which were completely destroyed and others partially destroyed. An estimated loss of \$10,000 is reported. The Waveland Roadway was said to be under water halting all automobile traffic and debris was piled high on the road. Water was said to be four feet above the normal height.

Minor damage was done to the roofs of houses, and shrubs, trees, and flowers were practically killed from the salt spray.

The partially constructed piers of the Brignac and Maumus homes were carried away. The C. B. Penrose and S. D. Siler piers were partially destroyed as were the Scrimshaw, Carere, Fournier, and many others.

It was indeed fortunate that the seawall held without a break and protected the entire stretch of road.

## To Open New Business Here

Leonard Rupp of the Rupp Tire Company, New Orleans, has purchased the Hille Building on Washington Street and will open a business there.

## CONCRETE BRIDGE OVER BAY URGED

The Pass Christian, Miss., Chamber of Commerce has adopted a resolution urging the postwar construction of a concrete bridge across the Bay of St. Louis it was announced Friday. "The creosoted timber bridge across the Bay of St. Louis, now safe for traffic, is gradually deteriorating, is a serious fire hazard and in the near future must be replaced by a permanent structure," the resolution stated.

"The Bay of St. Louis bridge is an important link in U.S. Highway 90, known as the Old Spanish Trail, one of the most extensively traveled highways in the country, and its destruction would be a calamity of the first magnitude."

The chamber urged the Mississippi highway commission to prepare plans and specifications for a permanent structure, set aside funds for its construction and file application for federal assistance under provisions of the public highway act. "Civic bodies in this section of the country are requested to petition the state highway commission to take immediate steps," the resolution stated, "so that no time will be lost in the beginning of construction work as soon as the war is brought to a victorious end."



## COOPERATIVE CREAMERY TO OPEN SOON

The renovation of the building purchased by the Board of Supervisors of Hancock County Cooperative Association has been completed. The bulk of the machinery and equipment has been received and the installation should start shortly. Another industry will then be in operation in Bay St. Louis. It is contemplated that approximately 15 to 20 men will be employed locally. From persons who are in a position to know, we have been advised that this creamery will be one of the best in the South. The building is located immediately opposite St. Stanislaus football field and is now open for inspection; the public is invited to visit the premises and inspect the building.

Approximately \$417,000.00 worth of stock has been subscribed by the citizens of Bay St. Louis and Hancock County. A small block of stock still remains unsold. Anyone desiring to purchase stock in the Association should contact Mr. Hubert Duckworth in the K.C. building on Main Street in Bay St. Louis.

It is believed that when the creamery begins operating a considerably large payroll will be made monthly in Bay St. Louis and that a large sum of money earned by the people of Hancock County, now spent elsewhere, will be spent here at home. Everyone is looking forward to the grand opening.

## Delivery of Farmer's Co-Op Pasteurized Milk to Start June 30th

The management of the Farmers Pasteurizing plant has announced that on June 30, their pasteurized milk will be delivered all over Bay St. Louis.

The retail delivery route will be handled by Mr. Pete Chiniche and anyone wishing to place an order can call 277 and it will receive immediate attention.

## FARMERS COOP SELL- ING PASTEURIZED MILK

On last Thursday the local pasteurizing plant sold their first pasteurized milk in Bay St. Louis. With completion of the building and all machinery installed, with the exception of one minor piece, the management is highly pleased in its results.

The plant is depending on quality to be its super-salesman and milk in the square bottle can be obtained at practically all stores in Bay T. Louis and Waveland.

## Boy Scout Troop 217 Has Interesting Hike Sunday

Boy Scout Troop 217 climaxed Boy Scout Week with a trip Sunday out in the wide open spaces.

The weather was cloudy and cold but the spirit of the Scouts was high for the trip.

Reporting at the Scout House at 8:30 Sunday morning

were Andy Martinolich, James Fayard, Laverne Garcia, Dupre Lapoint, Neil Walker, Francis Poolson, J.C. Estapa, E.J. Meringo, Irvin Kingston, C. J. Fayard, Anthony Pitalo, Vanmeter Fayard, J.V. Morreale, Jr., A.J. Maringo, Norton Haas, A. J. Chiniche, Charles Gager, Jesse Spain, Charles Poolson, Charles Carter, and Leo Taconi.

The scouts and their scoutmaster, Fred Fayard, Sr., left the scouting house at 9 o'clock and hiked out to the Mobile Express Depot where troop committeeman V. A Morreale furnished a large truck and driver who took the scouts to the foot of the Bayou LaCroix bridge where they disembarked and hiked across the bridge and then left the road and went into the woods for a mile and a quarter hike and pitched their tent on high ground then started a large camp fire.

After a short relaxation period the boys were assembled and given instructions as to digging small trenches, to build fires, cook their meal as each boy had been instructed to bring meat to barbecue.

The older boys helped the younger ones to find branches suitable for the making of forks to secure the meat and were further instructed in holding it over the hot ashes for cooking.

Later Laverne Garcia, C.J. Fayard, Francis Poolson, J.C. Estapa and E.J. Marengo were called together and sent out to blaze a trail through the woods for a quarter of a mile and back to camp. Then the other boys were organized into their groups headed by Andy Martinolich, Dupre Lapoints and Neil Walker as leaders. These groups were dispatched at intervals of three minutes apart to track the trail from marker to marker and back to camp.



This accomplished, the older groups were again separated, one group remaining at camp and the other going to the bridge and here a period of signaling was given and the boys showed a marked improvement in the signaling and in sending and receiving messages. The younger boys were then shown how to build a fire with only two matches and a string. The boys were

alert and interested in the building of fires.

Then came the good citizenship; when it was time to return home the boys went about their work of extinguishing fires and cleaning up, leaving their camp spot as clean as they found it.

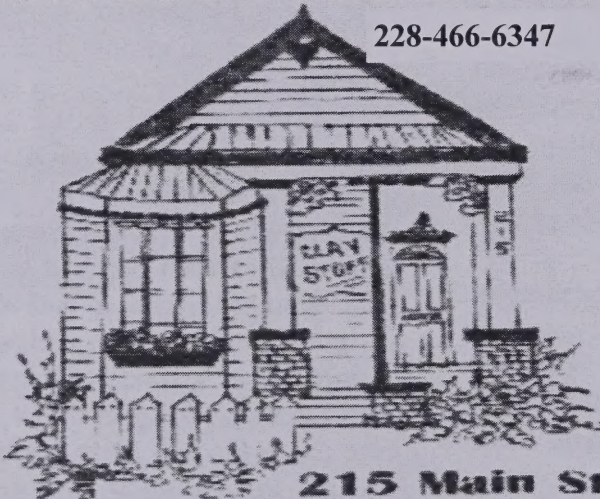
**Rosemary Legendre  
Ramelli  
1919—2005**

## NEW MEMBERS

Joseph Creel  
Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence E. Fricke  
Steve & Heather Harper  
Lionel Hotstream  
Ms. Paula Hughes  
Byron & Marjory Lynch  
The MacPhaille Family  
Jim Miller  
Fred M. Prince  
Terry Randolph  
Jo Lynn Bryan Rushin  
David & Angela Sallis  
Ms. Margaret Schaller  
Ms. Susan Underwood  
Ms. Linda Vaise

## Clay Creations Jenise McCardell

228-466-6347



215 Main St.  
Bay St. Louis, MS 39520

Houma's House, August 19th: Lunch at "the Cabin":  
Shopping at Outlet Center, Gonzales, La.

New Orleans Museum of Art, Sept. 16th, Sculpture Gardens,  
Lunch at Peppermill Restaurant"

## Gulf Coast Transportation

We Go Anywhere

John Muniz      Call for reservations: 228-493-2309  
990 Honalo Pl.  
Diamondhead, MS 39525      ShuttieOne@aol.com

*Sink or  
Be Sunk*



**Paul Estronza LaViolette**  
Available at the Hancock County  
Historical Society

# LATTER & BLUM

INC/REALTORS®

Since 1916

**Marjorie Schroeder, GRI**

REALTOR®

Top Producer

Office (228) 467-8142

Toll Free (800) 215-4111 Ext. 143

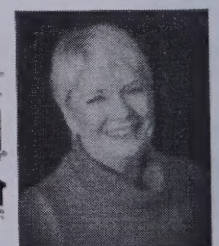
Fax (228) 467-2507

Cell (228) 697-7149

E-Mail [mnschroeder@latterblum.com](mailto:mnschroeder@latterblum.com)

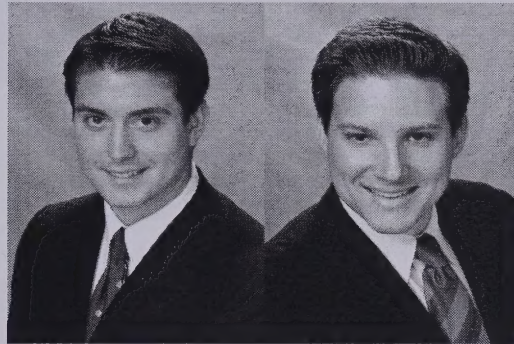
1188 Highway 90, Bay St. Louis, MS 39520

MLS





**"As a Senior, I'm more concerned about the return OF my principal rather than return ON my principal.." Will Rogers**



**Micah Keel Robert Padilla**

**WE AGREE!**

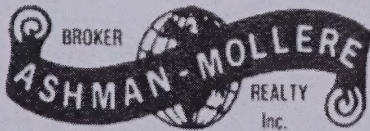
That's why we're the Gulf coast's Money Strategists. We offer asset Management, Investment Services and Educational Programs.



**KEEL & PADILLA**  
FINANCIAL SERVICES  
The Gulf Coast Money Strategists

Keel & Padilla financial Services, Inc. Locally owned with offices in Pass Christian and Biloxi.  
228-452-0323 or 1-800-452-4085  
Securities offered through First Allied Securities Inc. Member NASD/SIPC

**SUE ASHMAN, ABR, CRS, GRI**  
BROKER



(228) 467-5454  
227 Coleman Ave.  
Waveland, MS 39576

[www.Ashman-Mollere.com](http://www.Ashman-Mollere.com)  
Mobile (228) 216-7864  
Fax (228) 466-4561

**Charles B. Benvenutti**  
Certified Public Accountant

Charles B. Benvenutti, CPA, PA  
831 Highway 90  
P.O. Box 2639  
Bay St. Louis, MS  
39521-2639

228-467-1402  
Fax 228-467-2594  
Email: [Chuck@Benvenutticpa.com](mailto:Chuck@Benvenutticpa.com)

**Countryside Antiques**

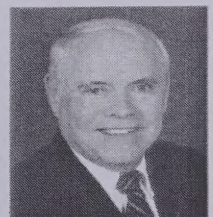


151 Highway 90 Est. 1978 Mike Mayo  
Waveland, MS 39576-2618 Tom Cottom  
Open Wed. - Sun. 10 - 5 228-467-2338/FAX 228-467-2223

**LATTER & BLUM**  
INC/REALTORS®

**JOHN E. HARRIS, GRI** Since 1916  
REALTOR-ASSOCIATE®

Office (228) 467-8121  
Toll Free 1-800-215-4111 x 1350  
Cell (228) 493-4111



1188 Highway 90, Bay St. Louis, MS 39520

520



Hancock County Library System  
Bay St. Louis, Ms 39520

U. S. POSTAGE PAID  
PERMIT NO. 87  
BAY ST. LOUIS, MS

NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION

HANCOCK COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
P. O. BOX 312  
BAY ST. LOUIS, MS 39520

## HANCOCK COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

POST OFFICE BOX 312  
BAY ST. LOUIS, MISSISSIPPI 39520

### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE AND ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

ANNUAL DUES \$15 INDIVIDUAL/\$25 HOUSEHOLD \$ \_\_\_\_\_